

Monroe County Domestic Violence Task Force
McCloskey Conference Room—Showers City Hall
June 20, 2014
Noon -1pm

Attending: Isabella Bravo, Middle Way House; Hannah Shireman, Middle Way House; Sarah Hunt, Mick Williams, Bloomington Police Department; Lara Weaver, Monroe County Prosecutor's Office; Alphonso Manns, private attorney; Julie Robertson, Monroe County Probation; Maqube Reese, City of Bloomington; Virginia White, Middle Way House; Audrey Hicks, IU Health Bloomington Hospital; Brad Swain, Monroe County Sheriff's Department; Joyce Beasley, Monroe County Clerk's Office; Beverly Calender-Anderson, City of Bloomington. Guest: Alaina Hobbs; Regrets: Toby Strout

- I. Al Manns opened the meeting and following introduction
- II. Alaina introduced the findings from her paper entitled *The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Protection Orders in Indiana*

While volunteering with the IU Protective Order Project, Alaina realized that although protective orders are frequently requested there is not much research on the impact protective orders have in stopping violence. Alaina modeled her research on a rural/urban study conducted in Kentucky. She surveyed twelve victim advocates throughout Indiana over the telephone or through email. Protective orders differ from state to state however Alaina's research was focused on Indiana. She found victims with permanent protection orders were less likely to be abused following issuance of the order. In some instances merely applying for an order of protection reduces violence against women. Only Maine has a permanent protection order statute. Most violations happen within 3 month of the order. Indiana currently provides two-year protection orders for victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual offenses. Lower income women more likely to have order violated. Alaina's research showed homicide to be a leading cause of death for African American women ages 17-45 and the #9 cause for women overall.

Questions used included:

- What are the three biggest reasons you think partner violence happens?
- How many people who are eligible for a PO actually request one?
- What do you think are the biggest barriers in your community to obtaining a PO?
- What are the three biggest problems with POs?

Responses:

- *What are the three biggest reasons you think partner violence happens?* Power and control; economic stressors; mental health issues; addiction problems.
- *How many people who are eligible for a PO actually request one?* Many victims do not actually want a protection order because they see it as just a piece of paper that will not actually protect the. An advocated reported that clients shied away

from protection orders because the benefit of the order did not outweigh the costs of giving away their new address and having an obligation to report violations. Concerns about children can also dissuade some victims from filing.

- *What do you think are the biggest barriers in your community to obtaining a PO?* Victims' lack of knowledge or education on protection orders; the attitude of the presiding judge; speed of the process and Fear of retaliation.

What are the three biggest problems with Pos (with the Indiana statutory scheme)? Two communities reported orders were handled well in their communities due to collaboration between agencies and close working relationships. Other communities expressed a need more ex parte, temporary orders to be granted between the time of filing and time of the hearing and lack of mandatory filing access.

Recommendations from Alaina's study:

- Provisions on renewal and mandatory emergency access to filing should be added to the Indiana statute;
- Indiana should expand its efforts to train judges and police officers on protection order and domestic violence in order to compensate for lack of appellate review;
- Counties should create a collaborative network between agencies involved with the protection order system.

- III. Old Business** – There will be no July meeting. Beverly indicated the need for facilitators for future meetings. Mick Williams agreed to facilitate the August meeting and one of the items on the agenda will be the possibility of a DV Conference in the Fall. Brad Swain will facilitate the November meeting. Beverly will send Doodle Poll scheduler out in order to fill slots for remainder of meetings this year.
- IV.** Following upcoming program and event announcements the meeting was adjourned.
- V.** Next Meeting – August 15th – facilitated by Mick Williams.